



Minutes of the Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING April 25, 2018

The POLICY Committee of the Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar Metropolitan Planning Organization met in session **April 25, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Hattiesburg Intermodal Facility in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

POLICY Committee Members Present:

Lamar Rutland, Director of Engineering	City of Hattiesburg	Voting
Mayor Hal Marx	City of Petal	Voting
Corey Proctor, Planning Director	Forrest County	Voting
Michael Hershman, County Planner	Lamar County	Voting
Nick Connolly, Shows, Dearman & Waits	Forrest County	
Perry Brown, P.E., MDOT	MDOT	Voting
John Weeks, Engineer, Shows, Dearman & Waits	City of Petal	
Ginger M. Lowrey, Planner	City of Hattiesburg	
Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO	City of Hattiesburg	
Jeff Altman, MDOT LPA Division	MDOT	
Joseph Waits	Lamar County	

MPO/HCT Staff

Calvin Russell, MPO Division Manager	City of Hattiesburg
Addie West, MPO Administrative Assistant	City of Hattiesburg
Stephanie Hall, Urban Development Admin. Assistant	City of Hattiesburg
Hema Gopalan, MPO GIS Specialist	City of Hattiesburg
Grant Hobgood, MPO GIS Technician	City of Hattiesburg

Visitors

Gloria Tatum	Tatum & Associates
Mike Essary, P.E.	Neel-Schaffer
Vijay Kunada	Neel-Schaffer
Geoffrey Crosby	Neel-Schaffer
Kelly O’Neal	Farmer/Landowner
Diane O’Neal	COH Citizen

Called to Order/Introductions:

Hattiesburg-Petal-Forrest-Lamar MPO POLICY Committee Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hal Marx, of the City of Petal. Voting Delegates were identified.

AGENDA SESSION:

There came the matter of Item III, Approval of the HPFL-MPO POLICY Committee Meeting Agenda of April 25, 2018. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to accept the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item IV, Review and Comment on the HPFL-MPO Policy & Technical meeting minutes for December 13, 2017. A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Lamar Rutland to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item V, HPFL- MPO Safety Targets #1 Ballot Vote

The committee members were asked if they had any questions on the Vote to Adopt Safety Targets established by The Mississippi Highway Safety Improvement Program 2017 Annual Report rather than establishing targets unique to our MPO area. The committee members were harmonious in this decision. No voting action required.

There came the matter of Item VI, Prospectus/By-Laws

Andrew reviewed summary of edits proposed to Policy committee members. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to Vote to Recommend Approval of the HPFL-MPO Prospectus/ Bylaws with proposed edits. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item VII, Public Participation Plan

The committee reviewed the draft of the PPP. The committee agreed that the Plan needed to be more general and the website changed so it could be more accessible to the MPO. It needs to be more consistent throughout in line with the Federal Highway requirements and mirrors what is reasonable and. Randy Jansen requested that all changes made should be sent to the Federal Highway within two weeks before Adoption. Updating the media contacts and the usage of the Website and Facebook was also discussed along with creating a short cut to the MPO. The consensus of the committee was that the LP will change entirely.

A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Lamar Rutland to Vote to Recommend to Acknowledging to Amend the HPFL-MPO Public Participation Plan with the committee suggested recommendations. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item VIII, Western Beltway Phase II Feasibility Study Presentation

Presentation was given on the Western Beltway Phase II Feasibility Study by Shows, Dearman and Waits. They talked about the analysis of traffic accidents, safety benefits and maintenance. A Public Hearing was held to get the residents input and to answer their questions. Based on the results of the analyses, potential construction of the Western Beltway is expected to result in improved traffic operations with reduced delays and queue lengths. The recommended lane configuration and traffic control contained herein will provide acceptable traffic operations for the design year of 2040. This will benefit the traveling public. A motion was made by Michael Hershman and seconded by Corey Proctor to Vote to Recommend Acknowledging Receipt of the Western Beltway Feasibility Study. The motion was approved with John Weeks and Nick Connolly recusing themselves from the motion. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item IX, Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Handbook

The committee reviewed the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Handbook. Andrew Ellard opened the discussion of the changes and why they were suggested. The changes and clarification were made to correct related and repetitive wordings, duplications and minor typographical errors. A motion was made by Lamar Rutland and seconded by Michael Hershman to Vote to Approve the TIP Handbook. The motion was unanimously approved. The motion carried.

There came the matter of Item X, Public Comment Opportunity

No Public Comment at this time. No voting action required.

There came the matter of Item XI, Other Business/Local Business

Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO stated that Hub City Transit will move forward with new bus routes. Also, they will be implementing New Fareboxes.

In Planning, they will be updating the Land Development Codes. No voting action required.

There came the matter of Item XII, Meeting Adjournment. Next scheduled meeting is the Policy Committee meeting on July 25, 2018. Being there was no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Hal Marx to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Andrew Ellard, Executive Director of HPFL-MPO

Date: _____

Attest:

Addie West, Recording Secretary

Date: _____